distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, micro-nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, PP equipments etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers trainings are also being organised for the effective transfer of improved pulses production technology.

A central sector scheme on production and supply of vegetable seeds is being implemented in all states and UTs of the country including Bihar to increase the production of vegetables. It envisages financial assistance for distribution of minikits of hybrid/improved vegetable seed to the farmers at a token money of Rs. 10/- only. 100% assistance is given to the State Govt. for production of foundation seeds of different vegetables.

(c) and (d) The Central allocation and releases made during last two years to the state of Bihar under NPDP and Central sector Scheme on production and supply of vegetable seeds are given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Releases
(A) Pulses (NPDP)		
1996-97	131.00	Nil
1997-98	120.00	Nil
(B) Vegetable		
1996-97	—	31.25
1997-98	—	Nil

The reason for non-release of money under NPDP is that Rs. 284.56 lakh has been lying as unspent balance with the State since April, 1996.

Floods in Assam

486. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of floods which swept Assam in the second half of 1998;

(b) the details of the Central assistance extended alongwith requisition made by State Government to fight the menace;

(c) whether Government have drafted any effective long term solution to the ever expanding problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The floods during South-West Monsoon period of 1998 reportedly affected 21 districts and caused damage to 2.89 lakh ha. cropped area and 0.30 lakh houses, besides loss of 105 human lives and more than 7800 heads of cattle. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 41.60 crore has been released to the State for undertaking immediate relief and rehabilitation measures. The Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 1001.98 crore under the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) is under processing.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of water Resources is already implementing scheme for flood control measures like construction of reservoirs and embankments, channel improvement, town protection, river training works etc.

Drought in Orissa

487. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is acute drought in the entire western Orissa comprising the undivided districts of Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir and Kalahandi in the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sent a Central team to assess the loss due to drought;

(c) what is the loss assessed by the State Government and the amount demanded to be met; and

(d) the amount so far released to meet the drought in the above areas?